

To: Western Washington University Community
From: The Associated Student of Western Washington University
RE: Statement on Anti-Asian Violence & Xenophobia

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen a rise in anti-Asian violence and xenophobia, as well as increased colonial violence for Black, brown, and Indigenous Peoples. The Associated Students of Western Washington University (ASWWU) stand in solidarity against the violent rhetoric directed towards our fellow Asian, Pacific Islander, and Desi American (APIDA) WWU community members. The ASWWU is committed to [sharing information that advocates and educates the public about Black Lives Matter and racial injustices globally](#). The remembrance of historical racist and discrimination events continues to affect our communities. The reminiscence of these events is a continuous cycle of white supremacy and institutional domination. The mainstream narrative of COVID-19 has inflamed anti-Asian sentiments and subsequent hate crimes that have been present since the migration of Asian Peoples to the U.S. The ASWWU supports student leaders, organizers, activists, and educators actively engage in anti-racist action and work that serves the needs of institutionally minoritized members of Western Washington University (WWU).

The ASWWU condemns any form of prejudice, stigmatization, xenophobia, or racism. In such vicious and turbulent times, it is important to stand with each other. So we call upon everyone, especially those who hold unearned power and privilege, to take up the responsibility to fight against systemic racism and oppression. To join the ASWWU in condemning this behavior and offering support to our most vulnerable WWU community members during these critical times, we encourage students and staff to uplift the voices of the Asian diaspora.

The Ethnic Student Center (ESC), a branch within the Associated Students of Western Washington University, offers scholarships for multiethnic and multiracial students. The ESC scholarships fund a \$1,000 Asian and Pacific Islander Academic and Leadership Scholarship open to current students. The Associated Students Vice President for Diversity, ESC student and staff leadership, Multicultural Center (MCC) student and staff leadership, LGBTQ+Western student and staff leadership are programing to celebrate and center joy for the upcoming Asian, Pacific Islander, Desi American Heritage Month.

In peace and justice,

Chair, ASWWU Executive Board	Chair, ASWWU Student Senate

Resources at Western Washington University:

Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance

<https://crtc.wwu.edu/compliance/title-ix>

The Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance is responsible for overseeing compliance with civil rights and affirmative action laws, regulations, and policies as it relates to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, or status as a disabled or other protected veteran.

Our office is operating remotely between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M, Monday through Friday.

Please call 360-650-3307 or email at crtc@wwu.edu for assistance or to schedule an appointment.

Structural Equity and Bias Response Team

<https://www.wwu.edu/sebrt>

The Bias Response Team's (BRT) role is to identify and collaboratively coordinate caring, prompt, and effective responses to bias incidents to (1) support Western students, staff, and faculty who are targeted or impacted by these incidents and (2) educate the Western community about impacts and histories of such bias and actions to prevent future similar acts.

A student, staff, or faculty member notifies the BRT of a bias incident by either:

1. Completing and submitting the online notification form or
2. Communicating directly with a member of the BRT about the bias incident. The member of the BRT then completes and submits the [online notification form](#).

Office of Student Life

<https://wp.wwu.edu/officeofstudentlife/reporting-a-concern-or-complaint/>

If you want to share concerns or make a complaint (including COVID issues) related to a particular Western Washington University student, please select the link below.

To share a concern or make a complaint, select [this link](#) which will direct you to a separate site.

Counseling Center

<https://counseling.wwu.edu>

The Counseling Center is available for remote services. We can be reached by phone at [\(360\) 650-3164](tel:3606503164) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and our after-hours crisis support is available at all other times by calling [\(360\) 650-3164](tel:3606503164) and pressing or saying "1."

The Counseling Center provides clinical and outreach services for currently enrolled WWU students. We utilize multiple pathways to healing model. Students may participate in consultations, workshops, and intensive group therapy & intensive brief individual therapy sessions.

BIPOC Mental Health Resources:

<https://counseling.wwu.edu/mental-health-links-and-downloads>

The following links may provide information and/or support to better understand and cope with a variety of mental health topics. Use the [WWU Wellness Plan](#) to create your own coping plan.

BIPOC Breathing Space

<https://counseling.wvu.edu/bipoc-breathing-space>

The BIPOC Meditation Space is a weekly gathering where members of the WWU BIPOC community can join together and collectively breathe. We will use poetry, quotes, and other art to guide us in weekly meditation that centers on BIPOC healing. Come as you are. No prior meditation experience is needed.

Virtual BIPOC Care Package:

<https://counseling.wvu.edu/files/2020-10/WWU-VirtualCarePackage-BIPOC%20%282%29.pdf>

Take a moment to explore this virtual care package as part of caring for your holistic health and well-being. We've compiled resources, coping tools, and information to help you prepare for this new academic year. A year in which resilience, self-care, and community connection have never been more important. As part of the Western community, we're in this together.

Ethnic Student Center Community Check-In:

<https://counseling.wvu.edu/community-check-ins>

A drop-in virtual space for BIPOC students to find support through social connection and consultation. A collaboration between the ESC and the Counseling & Wellness Center.

Ethnic Student Center Scholarships:

The Ethnic Student Center (ESC) offers a wide range of scholarship opportunities for Western Washington University multiethnic and multiracial students. ESC offers a \$1,000 Asian and Pacific Islander Academic and Leadership Scholarship.

Western Libraries Anti-Racism Resources:

<https://libguides.wvu.edu/c.php?g=1057718&p=7686061>

This guide attempts to provide general information and a starting point to learn about anti-racism, inclusion, and privilege, as well as provide knowledge and resources (thank you to Framingham State Library for this language). The WWU community is welcome to suggest resources, guides, or any other information relevant to this guide by emailing.

ask@wwu.libanswers.com. We also welcome [purchase requests](#) for books and films with anti-racist themes.